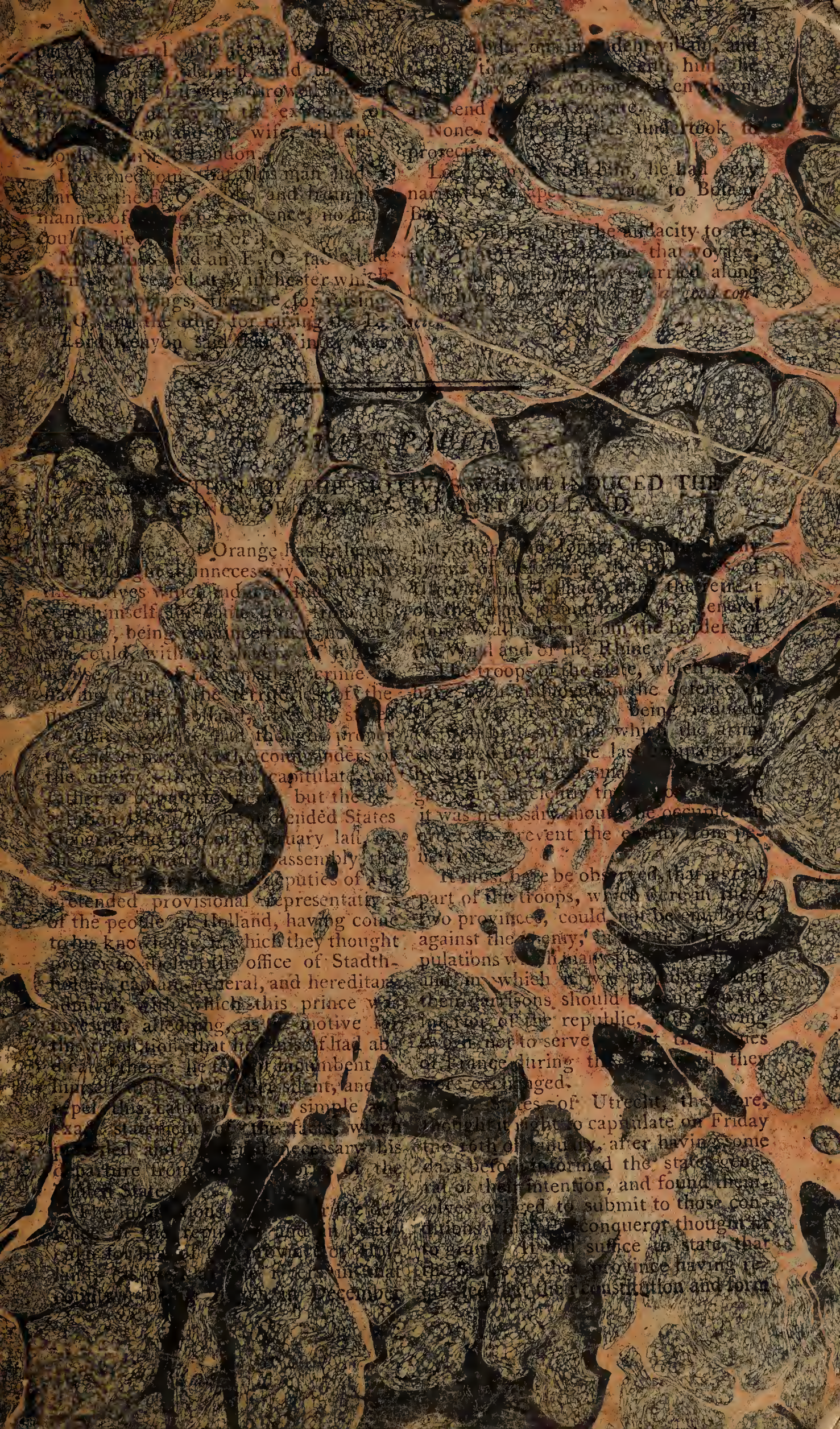

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Dr. BEER's

New Practice of Physic:

OR,

A SAFE, EASY, & EFFECTUAL

METHOD OF CURING

THE MOST OBSTINATE DISEASES,

ADAPTED TO THE KIND EFFORTS OF NATURE; AND ILLUSTRATED AS WELL AS CONFIRMED BY A VARIETY OF SUITABLE CASES:

TO WHICH ARE PREFIXED,

Candid remarks on the illusions of brilliant theories, and on the only true grounds of rational confidence in the treatment of the Gout, the Scrophula, Consumptions, Asthmas, Nervous affections, and other Disorders, hitherto deemed hopeless.

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[803]

Sanabilibus ægrotamus malis; ipsaque nos in rectum genitos Natura, si emendari velimus, juvat.

SEN.

PREFACE.

AFTER the great variety of treatises on the Practice of Physic, which have appeared even in the course of the last thirty or forty years, a new performance of the like kind cannot be offered to the public without a just and becoming apology. Some of the reasons, indeed, are so obvious that they require only to be mentioned, in order to secure the ready assent of every person of common sense. The multitude of books, which may have been written on any subject, are only a proof of its importance, and do not supersede the necessity of an addition to the number. Besides, medicine, as a practical art, ought to be daily improving by new observations and experiments; and these must be made known, for the purpose of enriching the general fund of such valuable information.

But

But the prevalence of errors highly injurious to the health and happiness of mankind is a still stronger incitement to the present attempt. Medical men have too long been led astray from the paths of nature, by the meteors of fancy, and the false glare of pretended science. Instead of following that unerring guide with respectful attention, instead of tracing her footsteps, listening to her voice, and marking well her admirable efforts both in the prevention and the cure of diseases, they have endeavoured to amuse themselves and others with plausible conjectures and brilliant theories. One of the most celebrated professors of physic in modern times, who used to bring forward a new system almost every season, accounted for such conduct to his private friends by saying, "it was neceſſary to throw out *a tub to the whale*." This man of great talents, but of little feeling or humanity, did not consider how many lives would be sacrificed to his specious doctrines. He did not consider that the

sally

sally of his wanton, I had almost said his wicked wit, would be found too true in its application; and that every new system, which he broached, would, in its ultimate effects, prove as fatal to the public health as a tub does to the deluded whale.

Shall the most inestimable of all blessings be thus licentiously sported with? Shall the boasted light of medical learning, and the splendor of a great name, serve but as torches to conduct us to the grave? Shall we suffer ourselves to be dazzled by the little twinklings of human genius, and wilfully shut our eyes against the mild radiance of nature? I have too high an opinion of the good sense of my countrymen to suppose them capable of such folly. Their generous and unsuspecting confidence may be sometimes abused; but they have nothing to fear from the evidence of facts, and a candid appeal to their understandings.

It is not a *new System*, but a *new Practice of Phyſic*, that I wish to recommend. The *relief of ſymptoms* ſeems now to be, as it were, the reigning faſhion in the medical world: I am desirous of enforcing *the complete Cure of Diſeaſes*. With this view, I shall first explain the means which nature employs for the recovery of health, or what is the same thing, for the expulsion of any evil which has gained admittance into the human frame. This is the grand source of all real knowledge. I cannot too often repeat, that Nature is the greatest of all physicians; and that it is the chief business of those, who call themselves her admirers and pupils, carefully to watch which way her efforts tend, and to call in the aid of art only to promote her salutary purposes.

After thoroughly studying the indications of cure in the great volume of nature, we must learn from experience the proper method of seconding her aims. We must attend to the observations and facts concerning the progress of diseases

and

and the effects of remedies, which have been collected in the course of ages by men of diligence, acuteness, and integrity. Under this second head I shall fairly state the result of my own trials and fortunate discoveries in the treatment of many disorders before deemed incurable. I shall expose the double absurdity of such a doctrine, when issuing from the lips of men, who, at the same time, will not acknowledge themselves to be deficient in any thing. Though they leave a patient hopeless, they can give a pompous description of his complaint:---they can point out the class, the order, the genus, the species, to which it belongs:---they can, to use the words of a lately deceased writer, *talk about it and about it*:---they can bring conjectures in place of facts, and assertions for proofs; and when very hard pushed, they can call veteran phrases from Greece and many frightful words to their assistance, till at last they raise such a cloud of technical dust, as conceals their ignorance, blinds the

the spectator, and makes him imagine that the matter has been fully explained, though he has not capacity enough to follow and comprehend the demonstration.

I mean to pursue a very different plan. I shall not wrap myself up in the cloak of mystery, nor endeavour to excite a belief of my profound learning by unintelligible jargon. I wish to imitate the simplicity of nature in my language as well my practice, and to be easily understood by persons of either sex and of every capacity. Yet, though I prefer clearness and precision to all the gaudy parade of eloquence, I hope that the real scholar, or any of the liberal and unprejudiced part of the Faculty who may read this little pamphlet, will not be less gratified than those who stand in greater need of information.

As to what may be called the curative part, I shall not advance a single assertion without cases in point to illustrate and confirm it. I trust solely to the evi-

dence

dence of truth, and the artless statement of indisputable facts. It is not because my medicines are sanctioned by his Majesty's royal letters patent, that I speak of them in a tone of confidence;---but because they have been so often put to the proof as to place their efficacy beyond the probability of a doubt. I can most conscientiously declare, that I scarcely ever knew them to fail, when administered under my own inspection, or when the rules of conduct which I prescribed were duly attended to.

I know how easy it is for interested people to raise a clamour against new discoveries, and to stigmatize with the name of quack every man who ventures to deviate from the established line of practice. But was the great HARVEY a quack, because he exposed the former mistakes of the whole world respecting the circulation of the blood, and taught surgeons how to amputate or cut off a limb with safety, which had never before been done but at the risk of life? Was

the illustrious SYDENHAM a quack, because he condemned with just severity the murderous effects of a hot regimen in the small-pox, and because he admitted the possibility of finding out a remedy for the gout? To come nearer to our own times, was Dr. DOVER a quack, for having invented a powder of great use in some rheumatic complaints, and which the College of Physicians have at length, with a very bad grace, admitted into their pharmacopeia? Was Dr. JAMES a quack, for finding out and bringing into high repute a method of preparing antimony for the cure of fevers; which both the medical colleges of the north and the south have in vain endeavoured to imitate? And am I also to be deemed a quack, because I censure fanciful theories, and maintain that my "Vital Fluid" in some cases, and my "Sudorific Draught" in others, are far more agreable to nature and of infinitely greater efficacy than the absurd mode of symptomatic treatment, now in vouge.

False

False delicacy is in many instances almost as blamable as presuming ignorance. It would be the height of weakness, for example, to confine to private practice any important medical invention, for fear of being exposed to the reproach of quackery. Surely, the good of our fellow-creatures,---the desire of relieving pain and expelling disease,---the conscious power of rescuing numberless victims from sickness, dejection, and death, ought to inspire us with a contempt of silly prepossessions---ought to raise us above all idle fears of what falshood, misconception, envy, or malice may dare to whisper concerning our motives.

Another insinuation may be thrown out to my disadvantage, even by those who well know its futility. They may artfully suggest the little likelihood that the two remedies, which I make use of, can be suited to so great a variety of complaints. This idea, shewy and plausible as it may seem to the superficial or uninformed

formed, is fundamentally false. It would indeed, be absurd to ascribe contradictory effects to the best specific; but when disorders of a certain description or class are marked by the same general character, and evidently proceed from the same causes, that physician betrays his ignorance or some worse motive, who asserts that it is impossible they can be cured by any particular medicine. All the diseases incident to human nature, however differing in their peculiar modes of attack, are the effects of nervous weakness, or of a vitiated state of the blood and juices. Sometimes they affect the whole habit, and sometimes particular parts only. The minute distinctions are numberless: but each class may be compared to children of one family, known by the resemblance of their leading features, and requiring like modes of treatment or discipline.

It is enough barely to notice the matter here, as I shall have occasion to discuss it

it more at large in the body of the work. But I must add a few words to remove or lessen some prejudices of the most fatal tendency, which may have sunk deep into the minds of patients themselves, from the failure of many of their former experiments. Persons afflicted with several obstinate complaints, particularly the Gout, the Rheumatism, the Scurvy, the Evil, Consumptions, Asthmas, and the deplorable train of nervous diseases, after having applied to the most eminent phyficians without experiencing the least benefit, and after having been induced, perhaps, by the perfuasions of their friends to try all the resources of domestic quackery in vain, at length consider their situation as hopeless, and turn a deaf ear to every assurance of relief, however candid, rational, and well founded. If their understandings are not greatly impaired by their maladies, --- if their folly is not much more incurable than their diseases,

---I think the following remonstrance must make some impression.

Let me then ask those willing victims of despair, whether it is not in some sort an impeachment of Divine Providence to suppose that the rich stores of nature do not afford a remedy for every physical ill? Have not even weeds, though often trampled upon by the foot of ignorance, been found to contain juices of infallible efficacy in complaints as desperate as theirs? Are we not told by the highest authority, "that the Lord hath created medicines out of the earth, and he that is wise will not abhor them?

But let us consider the subject in another point of view. Let us admit that those nervous, gouty, or consumptive patients have wearied themselves in seeking advice, and in making experiments. Let us grant, that they have tried both regular and irregular Doctors, to no purpose. What then? Because they have not been lucky enough to find a cure,

is

is the thing to be deemed on that account impossible? Because they have often been the dupes of deception, or have foolishly *pinned their faith on the sleeves* of arrogant pretenders, are they now to run into the opposite extreme of stupid and perverse incredulity! Are the powers of medicine to be doubted, because the prescriptions of some of its professors have been swallowed without any good effect? As well might we conclude from the blunders of some clumsy artist, that the art itself is defective, erroneous, or useless.

There are surely some grounds of rational belief. I claim no confidence but what is due to the clearest demonstrations of truth,---to a faithful description of cases, and a plain account of well authenticated cures. Among the witnesses to these facts are some of the Faculty, whom I had the happiness to snatch from the approaching grasp of death, and who, on the most solemn and public occasions, have borne honourable

testimony

testimony to my successful mode of practice.

It seemed necessary to point out these material distinctions between the present attempt and all the evasive schemes of subtlety and imposture. To say more would serve only to divert the reader's attention from the following hints on matters of the most serious importance and concern.

CHAPTER

CONTENTS

OF

DR. BEER'S NEW PRACTICE OF PHYSIC.

		Page
Spring 1763.	A deſcription of his own hereditary Gout - -	45
Spring 1792.	Mr. James Hayden, Jeweller's agent, Hip-gout, &c. &c. -	47
Spring 1794.	Mrs. Elliot, Gout and Dropſy	48
Ditto	Mr. R. Scott, Rheumatiſm & Dimneſs	49
Autumn 1788.	Tho. Thacker, Gout and Palſy	49
Autumn 1801.	Mr. Tho. Worthy, Gout and Aſthma	50
Spring 1783.	Tho. Dover, Gout and Aſthma	50
Spring 1792.	Jas. Scott, crippled with Hip-gout	51
Spring 1797.	Mrs. Potts, Rheumatic-gout, at the age of 72 - -	52
Ditto	Mr. & Mrs. Lany, Gout and Lumbago	52
Autumn 1795.	A Sickly young Lady -	55
Summer 1789.	Dying Son of Mr. Gregory -	54
Autumn 1795.	Surgeon Inch and Family, Scurvy	55
Summer 1801.	Mrs. Atkinſon and Son, hereditary Gout and Blindneſs -	56
Summer 1789.	Miſs Madderly, complicated Diſorders	56
	Dr. Beer's Practice, Scrophula, &c.	57
	Cure of Local Diſeaſes -	58
	Gout, Aſthma Gravel -	58
	Two Blind Children -	59
	Three Blind Perſons -	60
	Nervous Caſe of a young Lady	60
	Mrs. Plumber and Child, Aſthma	61
	Miſs Webb, Nervous & long Sickneſs	61
Autumn 1802.	Serjeant Boyle's Caſe -	62

CHAPTER I.

Of the means which Nature uſually employs to relieve or terminate diſeaſes.

It is unneceſſary to deſcribe that happy ſtate of body and mind, that perfect eaſe and exemption from all pain, which conſtitute health. But it is much to be lamented, that a juſt ſenſe of the value of this bleſſing is ſeldom entertained till after its loſs. Nature, indeed, never fails to put us upon our guard, and to give us ſtrong warnings of the approach of evil. It gains admittance chiefly through our inattention to her kind admonitions. Even then ſhe endeavours to get rid of the offenſive matter by this or that critical diſcharge, as the beſt adapted to the purpoſe. From the firſt ſymptom or appearance of diſeaſe, the powers of the conſtitution are continually exerted to reſtore its organs to the full uſe of their functions, and to recover its former vigour and ſerenity.

The moſt uſual means which nature employs for the expulſion of any miſchief, or for carrying off any diſorder, are vomiting, looſeneſs, and augmented perſpiration. Each of theſe important proceſſes muſt now be diſtinctly conſidered; and

we shall firſt take notice of the efforts of the ſtomach to diſlodge the intruding enemy, and to prevent any farther and more dangerous advances.

Were we always accuſtomed to attend to the ſimple cravings of hunger and thirſt, and never to deceive the palate by falſe gratifications or artificial provocatives, we ſhould eſcape the formidable hoſt of diſeaſes which now aſſail human life, and not only ſhorten its duration, but embitter its enjoyments. But our taſte is vitiated even in childhood; and we are thence liable to commit the moſt fatal errors both in the quantity and quality of our food. We eat and drink beyond the real wants of nature; and we acquire a perverſe reliſh or liking for things extremely unwholeſome and pernicious. Thus the pleaſure, which the ſenſes afford us in the act of recruiting our ſtrength, is rendered by abuſe and indulgence the cauſe of ſubſequent pain, weakneſs, and diſorder.

Before exceſſes become habitual, the ſtomach is poſſeſſed of ſufficiently active powers to throw off the oppreſſive load; and before this grand organ of nutrition is reconciled by frequent use to noxious ſubſtances in the form either of food or drink, a quick perception of evil, and a ſtrong reſiſtance to its ſtay or to its progreſs, are diſplayed in retchings and vomiting. It is thus that Nature affords timely relief even to the infant at the breaſt when

tempted

tempted to ſuck too much, as well as to the inexperienced young man, who ſwallows with thoughtleſs avidity the palatable poiſons of the luxurious board.

Such efforts, however, will ſucceſſively leſſen in proportion to the repetition of the violences offered to nature, and the obſtinate diſregard of her ſalutary hints. The force of the ſtomach in throwing off the offenſive matter is impaired by renewed ſtruggles: it alſo grows familiar with evil, acquieſces in its ſtay, and ſuffers it to paſs on without any check or oppoſition. Here then we may ſee how the firſt foundations of diſeaſe are laid in the exhauſted ſtrength of the ſtomach, and its gradual reconcilement to things hurtful in themſelves, or rendered ſo by an immoderate uſe of them.

The guardian care of Nature is again exerted as ſoon as the pulp or ſoft maſs, into which our food and drink are reduced in the ſtomach, paſſes out of it to undergo another change in the bowels. Theſe are endued, as well as the ſtomach, with a quick perception of any miſchief; and are rouſed by it into a ſort of tumult or diſorder, which produces a looſeneſs, and carries off the ſeeds of diſeaſe by ſtool.

But we muſt not forget that the purgative powers of the bowels grow weaker and weaker from frequent exertion, till they alſo, like the ſtomach

mach, are at length habituated to evil, and, inſtead of expelling it in the former manner, leave it to be taken up by thoſe fine tubes, called the lacteal veſſels, and carried by them with the chyle into the general circulation. Another ſtrong warning againſt the repetition of vicious indulgence!

When from the paſſiveneſs of the ſtomach and bowels, or their ineffectual reſiſtance to the progreſs of evil, or laſtly from the ſubtle and penetrating properties of the poiſon itſelf, it gains admittance into the inner receſſes of the frame, even then animal exiſtence is not left in a defenceleſs ſtate. The heart, and the various vaſcular parts of the body ſubject to the influence of the evil, are ſtimulated into efforts not unlike thoſe of the ſtomach and bowels, and which, in the form of a fever, frequently force or purge off the noxious matter through the pores. Illuſtrations of this occur every day in caſes of exceſſive drinking, before the conſtitution is accuſtomed to it, or before, in the bacchanalian phraſe, it is *properly ſeaſoned*. Every irregularity is attended with a temporary fever, which, after a reſtleſs night, is ordinarily terminated by a critical ſweat in the morning.

A medical writer who made a great noiſe ſome years ſince by the ſingularity of his opinions reſpecting

pecting the gout, and who, indeed, poſſeſſed no other means of exciting public attention but by quaint phraſes and ſingular opinions, repreſents occaſional intoxication as giving a ſalutary fillip to nature. The votaries of Bacchus are charmed with his doctrine, and quote it with rapture to juſtify their frantic exceſſes. Under the influence of ſo fatal an illuſion, they fillip nature too often, and never think, that the danger is the greater, the leſs ſhe ſeems to reſent the daring outrage. After repeated efforts to counteract the evil, the powers of ſecurity and defence grow languid as well as inſenſible and reconciled to it. The free liver and jovial companion will then perhaps exult in the perſuaſion, that his conſtitution is at laſt become ſuperior to all the burthens he lays upon it, becauſe debauch ceaſes to produce any immediate inconvenience or diſorder. But it is in fact a deadly inactivity: the diſcerning faculty of animal good and evil is loſt; and, from this time, a bad habit commencing, the ſcratch of a pin or the prick of a thorn may prove mortal. In ſhort the blood becomes poiſoned, and of courſe all the juices of the body which are ſecreted or diſtilled from it.

Intemperance being the chief cauſe of far the greater part of our maladies, I thought it would afford the beſt means of illuſtrating the reſources

of

of Nature in the prevention and cure of diſeaſes. Let us now apply our general remarks to particular complaints, to the gout for inſtance, which is acknowledged to be the genuine offspring of luxury and indolence. We may no doubt derive from our parents a hereditary pre-diſpoſition to this complaint; but its attacks are always encouraged by our own imprudence.

I need not be very minute in my deſcription of a regular fit of the gout. It is enough for my preſent purpoſe to obſerve, that it is generally preceded by indigeſtion, frequent burſts of wind, ſickneſs, and ſometimes vomiting, all of them ſure indications of the diſordered and enfeebled ſtate of the ſtomach and bowels. Nature by theſe means having ſought relief in vain, the heart and the ſeveral vaſcular parts of the body exert their powers to expel the offending matter from the ſyſtem; and that violent exertion neceſſarily produces a fever, accompanied with acute pain.

The ſeat of pain in the firſt fits of the gout plainly ſhews the deſign of Nature to drive the enemy as far as poſſible from the citadel of life. The parts affected are the great toe, the heel, and ſometimes the ankle or calf of the leg; and the pain does not abate, till they begin to ſwell, appear red or inflamed, and are covered with a little moiſture; The patient then drops aſleep, and

commonly

commonly falls into a gentle breathing ſweat. The acuteneſs of the pain is always in proportion to the vigour of the conſtitution; but as the powers of nature are more and more enfeebled by every freſh attack, though the pain is leſs, the fits are of longer duration, and return oftener, till the diſeaſe, advancing from the extremities to the head or ſtomach, faſtens upon ſome vital part, and death cloſes the ſcene.

If from this view of the progreſs of the gout, we turn to a much more formidable deſtroyer of the human ſpecies, pulmonary conſumption, we ſhall perceive the very ſame efforts of Nature to obtain relief, and if poſſible, to get rid of the irritating and dangerous affliction. I do not mean to examine the various forms of decline which many diſeaſes aſſume towards the cloſe of their fatal career, but that particular kind of waſte, ſometimes ſlow, ſometimes galloping, which ariſes in the firſt inſtance from cold or checked perſpiration, and ends in ulcerations of the lungs with all their train of dreadful conſequences. It is impoſſible to read without a ſmile the whimſical aſſertions of ſome writers concerning the cauſes of a complaint unfortunately not leſs common than deſtructive.

The author of a work entitled "Domeſtic Medicine" very gravely tells us, that "conſumptions,

ſo

ſo common in England, are in part owing to the great uſe of animal food." The affectation of ſingularity muſt be very ſeducing, or certainly no phyſician in his ſenſes would be bold enough to aſſert, that good roaſt beef would throw a man into a decline. The want of this nutritious diſh is far more likely to produce ſuch an effect.

But it may be ſaid, that the corroding poiſon lurks in other diſhes of animal food, which the people of England are well known to be fond of. In order to place the fillineſs of that idea in the moſt ſtriking point of view, we need only refer to the numerous claſs of men who carry on the buſineſs of butchers, among whom it is as rare to hear of a conſumptive perſon, as to find a ſailor troubled with the *hip*, or a dancing maſter complaining of the gout.

This declared enemy to beef and mutton is ſtill more ſevere in his animadverſions on the favorite beverage of Engliſhmen. Without once conſidering, that ninety nine out of a hundred of the victims to the complaint in queſtion are young people, or women of a delicate habit, he tells us in the moſt poſitive terms, that "hard drinking is, no doubt, one of the cauſes, to which we muſt impute the increaſe of conſumptions. The great quantities of viſcid malt liquor drank by the common people of England, cannot fail to render the blood ſizy

and

and unfit for circulation; from whence proceed obſtructions, and inflammations of the lungs. There are few great ale drinkers who are not phthiſical: nor is that to be wondered at, conſidering the glutinous and almoſt indigeſtible nature of ſtrong ale."

Hard drinking, to uſe Doctor's curious phraſe, is undoubtedly as inconſiſtent with the wholeſome rules of temperance as *hard eating*; but the diſeaſes, to which either the one or the other gives riſe, are the very reverſe of conſumptions. The *jolly toper* is ſeldom found to die of a decline, whatever his other complaints may be; and the age at which moſt conſumptive patients are carried off, between fifteen and thirty, as well as the delicate habit and manner of living of the females who fall ſacrifices to this cruel diſorder at a more advanced period, may be regarded as proofs that hard drinking had not brought them to ſo untimely an end.

But the doctor in his novel ſpeculations ſcorns to conſult any medical records or the bills of mortality, and proceeds from his miſapplied invective againſt *hard drinking*, to fix upon malt liquor in particular as the grand ſource of phthiſical infirmities. After having condemned our fondneſs for fleſh-meat, he ſeems reſolved to deprive us of another of our comforts, good ale and porter. He

tells us they are "almoſt indigeſtible." Yet, it is ſtrange how they came to be proverbially called *both meat and drink*; and ſtranger ſtill that all the reſt of the faculty ſhould deem them very nouriſhing, and moſt earneſtly recommend them to perſons of emaciated habits!

The doctor ſurely did not allow himſelf time to reflect on the ingredients of good porter and ale---water the beſt of all ſolvents---and that water impregnated with the mucilaginous and ſaccharine principles of malt, which muſt afford great nutriment,---as well as with hops, which not only clarify and preſerve the beer, but ſtrengthen the ſtomach, and diſſolve viſcid phlegm. This naturally cheering and invigorating liquor may, like the beſt of things, be abuſed and taken to exceſs; but let us only look at the working people of England, and judge from their healthy aſpect, their ſtrength, and activity, whether roaſt beef and good ale or porter can be deemed the principal cauſes of the increaſe of conſumptions.

I ſhall not amuſe the reader any longer with the expoſure of ſuch abſurdities, but ſhall return to the ſerious conſideration of a diſeaſe, which cuts off immenſe numbers in the prime of life, when ſociety ought to be benefited by their mental and bodily exertions. It appears from the moſt reaſonable calculation, that between five and ſix thouſand

ſand perſons die annually of pulmonic diſorders in the metropolis alone. What the havock muſt be in the whole of the united kingdom is a truly affecting ſubject of conjecture!

It has been already hinted, that this fatal affection of the lungs, which ſo often terminates in death, moſt commonly ariſes from a check given to perſpiration by the action of cold air, whether wet or dry, or of other cold and wet ſubſtances. Obſtructions neceſſarily follow, and a cough takes place, which is a convulſive effort of nature to diſlodge, pump up, and throw out, the accumulating humour. In a ſtrong habit theſe efforts are frequently effectual; the loaded veſſels are eaſed; and the ſolid parts acquire vigour ſufficient to reſiſt any further influx. But it falls out otherwiſe in very delicate conſtitutions, or in ſuch as have been enfeebled by violent and repeated attacks. The cough is too weak to accompliſh in due time the neceſſary expectoration: obſtructions increaſe: the depraved humours ſtagnate and putrefy: ſymptoms of inflammation and fever appear: the patient feels a ſort of ſtricture acroſs the breaſt, and a great degree of languor; while the judicious obſerver can eaſily perceive ſtrong marks of an alarming prelude to decay.

As the diſeaſe takes deeper root in the vital parts, and when the lungs, from being inflamed,

become

become ulcerated, nature ſtill continues her efforts, though weak and inadequate, to diſcharge the purulent matter. The expectoration is indeed conſiderable, but cannot afford relief. Nature thus driven to her laſt reſource, endeavours to expel the evil by ſtools and violent perſpiration. The hectic fever, before ſlight and fluctuating, is now completely formed, and manifeſts itſelf by regular fluſhes after eating, and a conſtant increaſe at night. A morning ſweat takes place, at firſt partial, or confined to the head and breaſt, and only occaſional; at laſt becoming general and conſtant, or alternating with a looſeneſs, ſo that the wretched patient is reduced to the laſt ſtage of emaciation and debility; for under theſe ſymptoms, the muſcular fleſh waſtes to the greateſt poſſible degree.

A late writer on this ſubject obſerves with equal truth and feeling, that the emaciated figure, when viewed in the above ſtate, ſtrikes one with horror; the forehead covered with drops of ſweat; the cheeks painted with a lively crimſon; the eyes ſunk; the little fat that raiſed them in their orbits entirely waſted; the pulſe quick and tremulous; the nails long, dry, and bending over the ends of the fingers; the palms of the hands painfully hot to the touch; the breath offenſive, quick, and laborious; and the cough ſo inceſſant as ſcarcely to allow

allow the poor ſufferer time to tell his complaints: yet, even at this period, and during the whole progreſs of the diſeaſe, the mind acquires an additional hope and confidence; poſſeſſes a more lively perception of certain recovery; and feels emotions of the moſt flattering and conſolatory kind, which attend it to the laſt hour.

After the details here entered into, it is unneceſſary to take any further pains to impreſs upon the reader's mind the chief ſymptoms of this mercileſs diſorder, or, what is the ſame thing, the marked efforts of nature to expel the miſchief, in the firſt inſtance by the mouth, and finally by a looſeneſs and melting ſweats. The failure of theſe efforts, when they are not properly aſſiſted, is the prelude to certain death.

The intentions of nature are not leſs evident in every other claſs of diſeaſes, as well as in thoſe of the febrile, feveriſh, or inflammatory kind, already noticed. Let us, by way of illuſtration, fix upon the ſcurvy, which is claſſed by medical writers under the head of *cachexies*, or diſorders ariſing from a depravity of the whole habit, to diſtinguiſh them from morbid affections of ſome one part, the gravel and ſtone for inſtance, of which the urinary organs are the ſeat, and upon which I ſhall preſently make a few remarks.

It

It has often been obſerved, that the ſcurvy is the moſt common diſeaſe in this country; that we find a tincture of it in almoſt every family, and in ſome a very deep taint; and that even a great number of diſorders, under other names, are in reality different modifications or conſequences of the ſcurvy. Its prevalence is too well known to admit of any doubt; and though there is some diverſity of opinion reſpecting its various cauſes, theſe may all be reſolved into unwholeſome diet and checked perſpiration. Bad proviſions of any kind, and too great a proportion of animal food, eſpecially if ſalted, or highly ſeaſoned, and hard of digeſtion, muſt tend to vitiate the blood and juices, and to bring on ſcorbutic complaints. It has alſo been fairly urged by a very candid writer on this ſubject, that, if we conſider the ſudden and frequent changes of temperature in our climate;---if we compare the preſent mode of living with that of our anceſtors, who did not interrupt the digeſtion of one meal by another, ſuch as our rich luncheons in the forenoon, and our tea and coffee in the afternoon, when the digeſtive organs are, as it were, drowned in theſe favorite liquids;---if we reflect on the irregular manner in which our time of repoſe is arranged, ſo that we ſpend a great part of our life in the unwholeſome night

night air, partly at late ſuppers, and partly in the modern practice of travelling by night;---if all theſe circumſtances be duly weighed, we cannot be at a loſs to diſcover the principal cauſes of the ſcurvy.

In any caſe, however, whether the ſcorbutic taint preceeds from improper aliment, or from the checks given to inſenſible perſpiration, repelling or throwing back the noxious humours into the ſyſtem, the efforts of nature to relieve the habit have preciſely the ſame aim as in the diſeaſes before pointed out, though a little different or peculiar in the manner. The ſkin is reſorted to as the grand organ for the diſcharge of the circulating poiſon. Eruptions appear on various parts of the body; foul obſtinate ulcers are formed; a looſeneſs, ſometimes tinged with blood, often takes place; and the expulſive powers of nature being at length exhauſted, the miſerable patient is carried off by the waſteful proceſs, by fits, by a paralytic ſtroke, or a mortification of the bowels.

In local diſeaſes, as thoſe of the kidneys, the endeavours of nature to bring about a cure are varied only by the ſtructure and offices of the parts affected. When any obſtruction takes place in the kidney, the offending matter cannot be thrown

off

off or diſlodged but by a feveriſh effort producing inflammation. When this fails, an abceſs is formed to diſcharge the miſchief. Sometimes, indeed, a ſmall ſtone, or a little collection of gravel, may be lodged in the baſon of the kidneys, without pain or giving much alarm, till by an accidental ſhock, or a particular poſition of the body, it drops into one of the two *ureters*, thoſe long and ſmall canals which carry the urine from the baſon of the kidneys to the bladder. The proceſs of expulſion from the new lodgment quickly begins, and is carried on in the following manner.

The ſenſible coat of the *ureter* will be firſt ſtimulated into pain by the irritation of ſo hard a ſubſtance. This will be ſoon increaſed by the neceſſary ſtretch of the ſuperior part of the little canal or tube, occaſioned, when the ſtone is large, by the obſtruction of the urine. Pain is ſure to produce inflammation: the conſtant effects of this inflammation are convulſive twitches, which, with the aſſiſtance of the ſtomach, drawn likewiſe, by a conſent of parts, into the ſame efforts, drive the miſchief into the bladder, where it ordinarily paſſes off in the ſtream of urine.

But when the urine itſelf is too long retained,---when the expulſive powers of the bladder are paralyſed or enfeebled,---Nature, ever active, while life

life remains, makes other attempts, though fatal in their ultimate iſſue, without the timely aid of art. The more watery parts of the urine are re-abſorbed, or taken up again into the maſs of circulating fluids, and expelled through the pores. The painful diſtention of the bladder is thus relieved; but the greater evil is increaſed; for the groſs and earthy parts being left to ſtagnate, the accumulation of gravel and the formation of ſtones are promoted, till a long train of excruciating tortures conſigns the wretched ſufferer to the grave.

In theſe illuſtrations of the efforts of Nature, I have not exactly followed the order in which diſeaſes are uſually claſſed, becauſe I wiſhed to reſerve for the laſt ſubject of remark thoſe of the nervous kind, which are the moſt complicated, the moſt difficult of cure, and take up the wideſt range in the immenſe ſphere of human infirmities. Their cauſes are as diverſified as their ſymptoms and modes of attack. Indeed, whatever weakens the body or depreſſes the ſpirits, --- whatever ſtrongly affects the mind, or greatly enfeebles the organs of life and ſenſe,---may occaſion diſorders of the nerves. As theſe fine, theſe exquiſitely delicate filaments are detached from the brain and ſpinal marrow to all the various parts of the frame, they muſt ſuffer from the injury done to any of thoſe parts. If the head be the ſeat of pain, not only ſtupor, giddineſs,

and confuſion of ideas, but madneſs itſelf may be the conſequence. In nervous affections of the ſtomach and bowels, flatulencies and other ſymptoms of indigeſtion are ſoon felt, and the great purpoſe of nutriment is defeated. When the heart ſuffers, palpitations and faintings neceſſarily follow. In ſhort, wherever any relaxation takes place, the nervous ſyſtem is either partially or wholly diſordered, and a gradual waſte or a palſy brings the poor patient to that end, which, under the habitual depreſſion of his ſpirits, he alternately fears and wiſhes for.

During the whole progreſs of nervous diſeaſes, the efforts of Nature are always directed to the ſame object, which I have ſo often had occaſion to deſcribe, I mean the expulſion of miſchief through ſome of the grand outlets, and particularly the pores of the ſkin. But unhappily her aims in this reſpect are totally fruſtrated by the weakneſs of the parts themſelves and of the whole habit. Repeated vomitings, and increaſed diſcharges either by ſtool or urine, ſerve only to aggravate the ſymptoms; while profuſe perſpiration quickens, inſtead of retarding the patient's fatal career. In ſuch caſes, the unavailing exertions of Nature muſt be tempered, till the nerves can be reſtored to their proper tone, and till the vital organs can be enabled

bled to perform their functions with renovated ſtrength, eaſe, and regularity.

Having endeavoured to make it evident, that the efforts of Nature in diſeaſes of every claſs are the only true and infallible indications of cure, I ſhall next ſhew how theſe indications are moſt likely to be fulfilled by the well-timed and judicious exertions of medical ſkill.

CHAP II.

CHAPTER II.

Of the reſources of Art in promoting the benignant purpoſes of Nature.

I do not imagine that any perſon of common underſtanding can entertain the leaſt doubt of the truth of the doctrine here laid down, namely that all ſound medical practice muſt be regulated by a diligent attention to Nature; that ſhe never fails to point right; and, therefore, muſt never be oppoſed, but at moſt be gently checked, or, if in a languid ſtate, aſſiſted. We have ſeen that her *chief* reſources for the expulſion of any morbid or offenſive matter are ſpontaneous vomitings, looſeneſs, and augmented perſpiration*. Let us now conſider in what caſes the judicious and experienced phyſician may think it adviſable to adopt each of thoſe methods of relief or cure.

It is only in the firſt ſtages of diſeaſe, or before the poiſon has penetrated any farther than what are called the *firſt paſſages*, that convulſive twitches of the ſtomach or bowels and a diſcharge by the mouth or by ſtool can prove effectual. After the

* As the object here is to eſtabliſh general principles, and not to diſtract the reader's attention by too many details, any farther notice either of evacuations by urine, already hinted at, or by involuntary diſcharges of blood, is deemed unneceſſary.

the evil has found its way into the circulation, or has gained a footing in the inner receſſes of the body, the action of the ſtomach or bowels cannot reach it, and it muſt be thrown off by ſome other outlet. To ſtimulate the expulſive efforts of the former, unleſs when ſome noxious ſubſtance is actually preſent there, would be abſurd and injurious. The repeated uſe of emetics or purgatives muſt enfeeble and deſtroy the organs of digeſtion, upon which the health and vigour of the whole body depend.

It is really ſhocking to think of the baneful effects of the pills, and potions, and powders, which are daily preſcribed by knaves and taken by fools, with a view to the cleanſing and purifying of the body. Such medicines, or, more properly ſpeaking, ſuch poiſons muſt waſte the precious juices which are neceſſary for the ſolution of food, and convert the ſtomach, as it were, into a field of battle, where all the irregularities that take place in the ſyſtem are left to fight their way,---where the limits of diſeaſe and health, nay the alternative of life and death are to be finally determined.

I wiſh the ſilly patient, who fancies that opening phyſic, as he calls it, will cure all his complaints, could be prevailed upon to ſtop his hand,---to pauſe for a moment before he ſwallows the doſe,---

and

and to conſider well whether the ſtomach can be deemed the proper place for conflicts, for tumult, and diſorder. It is the grand organ of digeſtion and nouriſhment,---the ſource of reſtoration and health. But how can it effectually anſwer theſe ends, if it ſerves, at the ſame time, as the laboratory or work-ſhop of diſeaſes? Nature takes all poſſible care that it ſhould not be diſturbed in its functions, except by the irritation of immediate evil, or by ſympathy with other parts. In the former caſe *only*, it ſhould be eaſed of the offenſive load; but, in the latter, its ſufferings and its weakneſs are ſure to be increaſed by laxatives or emetics.

I hope I need not take any more pains to caution thoſe who are well againſt the danger of making themſelves ſick by medicines that enfeeble the ſtomach and bowels; or thoſe who are ſick, againſt the folly and frenzy of having recourſe to means which cannot reach their complaint, and which muſt exhauſt all the ſtrength of the conſtitution in fruitleſs and relaxing efforts. More patients have been killed in conſumptions by the modern practice of emetics, and in the ſcurvy and other diſeaſes ariſing from a vitiated ſtate of the blood, by the uſe of purgatives, than by the regular progreſs of the maladies themſelves.

But the diſcharge of impurities from the ſyſtem by augmented perſpiration, being the principal recourſe

reſource of Nature, ſhould always engage the phyſician's ſteady regard. Indeed his ſkill and judgment cannot be diſplayed in any thing with happier effect than in regulating the activity, as it may be termed, of the pores, and promoting the expulſion of all noxious humours through thoſe admirable channels. But the importance of *inſenſible* perſpiration for the preſervation of health, and of *ſenſible* perſpiration for the recovery of that bleſſing, is ſo little underſtood by people in general, that I muſt with peculiar earneſtneſs requeſt the reader's attention to a few remarks on this very intereſting part of the ſubject.

It has been proved by accurate calculations, that the moſt healthy individual daily and inſenſibly perſpires upwards of three pounds weight of ſuperfluous and impure humours. This diſcharge, which flies off the ſkin in a ſort of imperceptible vapour, is ſo eſſential, that without it any perſon's health cannot long ſubſiſt. Every check on its eſcape muſt throw the ſyſtem into ſome diſorder; while, on the contrary, the more uniformly and vigorouſly it is carried on, the more active are the powers of the body in the regular concoction of the alimentary fluids, and the more certain it is that no fluids will ſuperabound: for the fluids, though refined and ſubtile, far exceed in weight the more compact and ſolid parts, ſo that they would oppreſs the

the machine like a heavy burthen, if not evacuated by the pores of the ſkin.

The plaineſt truths are often the moſt diſregarded. But this ſhall not diſcourage me from adding, that the beſt, I might ſay, the only means of preſerving health conſiſt in temperance, moderate exerciſe, and due care to keep the ſkin clean, flexible, and active. It is impoſſible for the mind to retain its chearfulneſs, or the body its perfect vigour, when the pores are relaxed or obſtructed, and when inſenſible perſpiration is irregular or defective.

A function of ſo much importance in a ſtate of health becomes alſo, by a proper augmentation of its force, one of the beſt remedies in the cure of diſeaſes. We then call it *ſweating*, or ſenſible perſpiration, which Nature employs to expel any miſchief that may have found or forced its way into the inner parts of the body. All that remains for the medical attendant in ſuch caſes is to regulate her efforts, to aſſiſt them when too weak, and to temper or reſtrain them when too violent or diſorderly. I have ſaid again and again, but cannot repeat it too often, that it is always not only an uſeleſs but a pernicious experiment to irritate the ſtomach and bowels, except for the purpoſe of diſlodging any evil actually preſent there; but that, after it has paſſed into the remoter

receſſes

receſſes of life, the aid of art is then called in to ſtrengthen the weak, and to rouze the ſluggiſh or inactive parts of the vaſcular ſyſtem to more vigorous exertions, till the offending matter is completely driven out through the pores.

In all impurities of the habit, in all diſeaſes ariſing from a vitiated ſtate of the blood and juices, ſudorific medicines ought unqueſtionably to hold the firſt rank. They are beſt ſuited to fulfil the certain indications of cure, and effectually to promote the benignant purpoſes of Nature. But care muſt be taken, at the ſame time, to invigorate the conſtitution; or profuſe ſweats may prove as relaxing and almoſt as fatal as copious bleeding. The chief difference in the degree of injury ariſing from both is, that the former, being agreeable to nature, can be hurtful only when carried to exceſs, whereas the latter, if ever ſo moderate, is always noxious to the healthy, and ſeldom ſerviceable to the ſick, unleſs *in extraordinary caſes of inſtant danger*. Bleeding is a neceſſary expedient in apoplectic ſymptoms, or a threatened inflammation in the inteſtines, when the time may be too ſhort and the danger too preſſing to admit of any other remedy; but in other caſes it is a hazardous, a debilitating, and ſometimes a fatal operation.

The writer, whoſe curious invective againſt the roaſt beef of old England has been already noticed, ap-

pears to be equally whimſical and abſurd in his ideas of bleeding. He begins his eſſay on the ſubject with aſſerting, that "no operation of ſurgery is ſo frequently neceſſary as bleeding;" and that "it ought therefore to be very generally underſtood." It is well for the Doctor that he is not a ſurgeon, or, after having avowed ſuch an opinion, he certainly could hope for employment only from the inmates of Bedlam or other receptacles of inſanity. I ſhall endeavour to place the natural effects of bleeding in a juſt light, from the fulleſt conviction, that, when it is generally and properly underſtood, no operation of ſurgery will be deemed leſs neceſſary or more rarely adviſable in all the poſſible accidents or infirmities of human life.

The SANGRADOS of the preſent day, who obſtinately perſiſt in the old practice of bleeding upon every occaſion, do not ſeem to conſider that the blood is the great fountain of life, ſtrength, and renovation, ſerving to ſupply the waſte, and to make up the loſſes, which every part of the body ſuſtains by its regular action. Shall we then call it a neceſſary operation of ſurgery---ſhall we not rather deem it an act of the moſt reprehenſible butchery, to waſte the vital fluid, and thus to cut off the ſources of ſupport and regeneration?

I know that the ſilly advocates for bleeding often amuſe themſelves and others with ſaying, that

that the blood drawn off is ſoon reproduced, or its loſs ſupplied by the activity of the vital organs. In the firſt place, this is ſuppoſing the vital organs to be in full health and vigour. Yet, even then, the reſtoration of the precious fluid is not effected without conſiderable efforts, and at the expence of the whole machine. As this exertion is a great preſſure upon the vital powers, it muſt be attended with a proportionate degree of their conſumption :---it muſt undermine the firmeſt habit, render it more liable to diſeaſes, and ſhorten the period of its duration. But if blood-letting is ſo injurious to the moſt vigorous conſtitutions, and in a ſtate of perfect health, we may eaſily conceive what the effect muſt be on a poor patient, who is neither capable of the before-mentioned efforts, nor rich enough in vital reſources to bear the expence. In nervous complaints, in fainting fits, in conſumptions, in dropſies, in every inſtance of relaxation, impoveriſhment, or weakneſs, opening a vein is almoſt as bad as cutting the throat of the individual. It never can do the leaſt good, except in caſes of extreme fulneſs, apoplectic alarm, inflammatory violence, or ſuſpended animation.

As to the idea, that in every attempt to purify the habit, we ſhould begin with bleeding, it is juſt as ridiculous as to expect that a ſpoiled caſk of wine could be cured of its tartneſs by tapping it,

or

or drawing the acid and impure portion from the top, and leaving the ſweet and wholeſome part at the bottom. Let no man dare to take up the lancet for the purpoſe of correcting impurities, until he can give his patient the moſt ſatisfactory proofs beforehand, that his inſtrument poſſeſſes the ſupernatural power of ſeparating the corrupted part of the blood from the ſound,---of opening a ſluice for the eſcape of the former, and cauſing the latter to remain behind.

It is painful to a liberal mind to dwell on the errors and abſurdities of others; but I thought it my duty to do ſo in a matter where health and life are ſo often at ſtake. I ſhall now explain the effects of the medicines which I have diſcovered in the courſe of my practice, and which repeated ſucceſs has inſpired me with becoming confidence to recommend to public notice. I am in poſſeſſion of above three hundred caſes in a variety of complaints hitherto deemed incurable, but which have yielded to my mode of treatment. A deſcription of all theſe would fill a large volume; but from a deſire to bring this little work within the eaſy purchaſe of almoſt every claſs of readers, I ſhall confine myſelf to a few ſtriking facts, merely to eſtabliſh the truth of my doctrine, and to afford the incredulous and the hopeleſs the faireſt and moſt rational grounds both of belief and conſolation.

CHAPTER III.

Theory verified by Practice; or an account of well-authenticated cures to confirm the efficacy of the re-animating fluid and ſudorific proceſs.

In the cures which I am now going to ſtate, I ſhall follow the order laid down in the firſt Chapter, beginning with the Gout and Conſumption, or diſeaſes of the inflammatory claſs, and thence proceeding to thoſe of the cachectic, local, and nervous kind, in regular ſucceſſion. It may ſeem a little ſtrange that I ſhould deſcribe my own caſe firſt. But I aſſure the reader, that this does not proceed from any impulſe of vanity, or ſelf-importance. I am only deſirous of ſhewing that I have never loſt ſight of the old proverbial admonition,---"*Phyſician cure thyſelf*"---It is well known, that I ſuffered very much in the middle period of life from a hereditary gout. With what face then could I undertake to cure that diſorder in others, if I had not proved the efficacy of the propoſed remedy in my own perſon? I need not urge any ſtronger reaſon to men of ſenſe and candour; and it would be labour in vain to attempt to ſatisfy thoſe who have neither.---So here I reſt it.

Section I.

SECTION I.

Gouty, Rheumatic, and Conſumptive Caſes.

Case 1.

After the apology juſt made for beginning with the deſcription of my own cure, I ſhall now enter upon it, without further preface.

I was born of amiable but infirm parents. My warm ſenſe of their moſt affectionate and endearing regard is not chilled or abated by the reflection that I have been the heir of ſome of their infirmities, a great irritability of the nervous ſyſtem, and excruciating attacks of the gout. It was not the choice of a profeſſion which led me to the ſtudy of phyſic, but the deſire of being able to afford myſelf that relief which I had ſought for in vain from the Faculty. I felt the inefficacy, and at length diſcovered the abſurdity of their mode of treatment. I ſaw that it tended to weaken, inſtead of invigorating the conſtitution; and I therefore turned away from ſuch guides, to place myſelf under the unerring direction of Nature.

It was not till after a long and very attentive ſtudy of the ſymptoms of diſeaſes, and of the means which Nature takes to relieve or terminate them, that I began to make experiments. I was forcibly ſtruck with the grand principle of perſpiration, as the moſt effectual method of removing obſtructions, carrying off impurities, and expelling the lurking ſeeds of diſeaſe, the foul, the peccant, the morbid humours, from every part of the frame. But though I was convinced of the juſtneſs of this theory, yet the languor, waſte, and reſtleſſneſs

reſtleſſneſs, which attend all the uſual means of promoting ſweat, rendered me very timid in the trial of ſudorific operations, till I happily found out ſome preventives of danger, and neceſſary reſtoratives of health and vigour.

I have repeatedly undergone the proceſs myſelf, and have thereby effected a radical cure of my old and very ſtubborn affliction, the gout, with the piles, and other incidental infirmities. I am a living witneſs of the ſafe and ſalutary operation of my medicines. Although near ſeventy ſix years of age, forty eight of which have been ſpent in the ſtudy and practice of phyſic, I have the ſtrength, agility, and ſpirits of a healthy man of fifty; and can read, for many hours every day, a much ſmaller print than this, without the aid of glaſſes. The pleaſure I feel in the enjoyment of ſuch health is greatly increaſed by the exquiſite ſatisfaction of having been inſtrumental in reſtoring that bleſſing to numbers of truly pitiable objects, after they had given up all hopes of relief or recovery.

Case 2.

James Haden of *Ely Court, Holborn*, publiſhed, in May 1792, the circumſtances of his own cure, in terms of the warmeſt and moſt grateful acknowledgment. He had been ſeveral years troubled with an obſtinate cough, and occaſional attacks of what is commonly called the *hip-gout*. The improper meaſures purſued by his medical attendants increaſed the ſeverity of his complaints. The loins, and, ſoon after, the cheſt and ſtomach became the ſeat of pain, and to ſo alarming a degree, that he expected every moment would

would be his laſt. The difficulty alſo of his breathing ſeemed to threaten him with inſtantaneous ſuffocation; and being unable to lie down, he remained day and night for ſome months ſitting in a chair, and exhibited to his friends a moſt affecting ſpectacle, having been reduced from a robuſt, jolly appearance, to that of an emaciated ſkeleton. In this ſtate of torture, he was prevailed on to try the effects of the *vital fluid* and *ſudorific proceſs*; and he experienced ſuch relief from the firſt operation, that he had it repeated two and twenty times in the courſe of a few weeks. His own words are, "that all the means made uſe of during the whole courſe, and all the medicines adminiſtered to him, proved as pleaſant as they were ſucceſsful:---that every time of their being applied, he found a material increaſe of health, vigour, appetite, and ſpirits, until," he adds, "though ſixty years old, he was ſoon reſtored to every faculty of mind and body."

Case 3.

Mrs. ELLIAT, who kept a reſpectable ſhop for above twenty years in *Tottenham-Court-Road*, was moſt of the time afflicted with a windy and wandering gout, which at length became fixed, and took away the uſe of every joint from the right hip to the extremities of her toes. The want of exerciſe, or rather her inability to take any, brought on ſome dropſical ſymptoms alſo. She availed herſelf of what ſhe thought the beſt advice, but without effect, till ſhe conſulted Dr. BEER, who, in the courſe of ſix weeks, performed a ſatisfactory cure both of her gouty lameneſs and her dropſy. This happened in July 1794. She ſoon after retired to

No.

No. 9, *William Street, Pimlico*, where ſhe has ever ſince enjoyed an uninterrupted ſtate of good health, though ſhe is near ſeventy years of age.

Case 4.

Mr. ROBERT SCOTT, a clock-maker, who occupied apartments in the houſe of Mrs. ELLIAT, caught a bad cold, while conducting her buſineſs during her illneſs. The ſeverity of his cold renewed an old rheumatic complaint, and injured his ſight ſo much, that he was afraid he ſhould never be able to work at his own trade again. He was, however, induced by the recovery of Mrs. ELLIAT to place himſelf under the ſame management, which ſucceeded ſo well, that he was completely cured of the rheumatiſm, and his ſight reſtored by only two operations, and a few dreſſings with Dr. BEER's eye-water. He is now ſixty years old; ſtill retains health and ſight; and being anxious to have his caſe, with that of Mrs. ELLIAT, publiſhed for the benefit of others, he chearfully ſigned the above ſtatement of facts in the preſence of Mr. DAYES, clock and watch-maker, No. 14, *Drury Lane*.

Case 5.

THOMAS SECKER, formerly a coach-maker, and now reſiding at No. 10, *Chapel-row, Spa-fields*, having been for many years ſorely afflicted with the gout, and reduced to a ſtate of abſolute deſpair by the declarations of ſome of the Faculty, *that he would never again have the uſe of his limbs*, lives to prove the injudiciouſneſs of their practice, and the fallacy of their opinions. Twenty one of Dr. BEER's operations reſtored

the man's health, and the perfect exercise of every limb, except such parts as were totally decayed.

Case 6.

THOMAS DOVER, a miller at the King's mills, *Rotherhithe*, was attacked in the forty-fifth year of his age with so severe a rheumatic affection of the loins and stomach, as to render him unable to turn in his bed. A strict compliance with the rules laid down by the physicians, whom he first consulted, having only increased his disorder, he sent for Dr. BEER in April 1783, and was soon relieved. But, in the year 1788, having removed to a damp, new built house, he caught a violent cold, which brought on a renewal of his former complaint, with many other very aggravating symptoms. He again had recourse to Dr. BEER, who eased his pains, and restored him from extreme emaciation to the most desirable state of plumpness, vigour, and activity. The warmth of his gratitude prompted him to draw up a long statement of all the circumstances of his cure, and to attest them before the Lord Mayor on the twenty ninth of July, 1790.

Case 7.

Mr. THOMAS WORTHY, of the King's Arms Hotel, *Elephant Stairs, Rotherhithe*, had been what is commonly and very significantly termed a martyr to the gout. As it gained ground by repeated attacks, his intervals of ease became of short duration, and very few parts of his whole frame were exempt from pain. Every joint seemed as on the rack, and one of his thighs was contracted at least two inches. In the course of his illness

illneſs, he had four medical attendants of great reputation, but of little ſervice. He was willing to make new experiments, though he had no great hopes of relief, when he ſent for Dr. BEER, who, by fifteen operations, enabled him to walk about, and by three more, ſo entirely renovated his conſtitution, as to render him ever ſince one of the moſt hearty men in the kingdom.

Case 8.

JAMES SCOTT, a ſhipwright, who once reſided in the former patient's neighbourhood, but afterwards removed to No. 44, *White Croſs Street*, had for eleven years enjoyed very little eaſe from the keen pungency of the hip-gout. At laſt it crippled the whole of one leg, which was conſiderably ſhrunk; and ſeveral of the Faculty having exerted their ſkill in vain, his wife was particularly averſe to his making any more trials. But he did not ſuffer himſelf to be ruled by her prejudices; and a permanent cure of his complaints has been the happy reſult of only four of Dr. BEER's operations. He was before without iſſue; but three fine healthy children have ſince rendered his wife no leſs grateful than himſelf for ſo unexpected a bleſſing.

Case 9.

Mrs. WAINE, the wife of a carpenter who lived near Mr. SCOTT, was prompted by his cure and his perſuaſions to apply for relief, though her ſituation ſeemed peculiarly hopeleſs. A rheumatic gout, which, in ſpite of all the efforts of the Faculty, had continued to increaſe during ſo long a period as fourteen years, made

made her look forward to death as the only alleviation of her ſufferings. Her limbs were diſtorted, and totally uſeleſs; the greater part of her back and bowels was decayed; and ſhe was as incapable of any voluntary motion as if actually deprived of life. The decayed parts could not indeed be reſtored; but a complete cure in every other reſpect was effected by twenty five of Dr. BEER's operations.

Case 10.

Mrs. POTTS, the wife of Mr. POTTS, No. 11, *Little Titchfield Street, St. Mary-le-bone*, was always, from her infancy, of a delicate habit, and liable to wandering pains; but from the ſixty ninth to the ſeventy ſecond year of her age, ſhe was tormented night and day with the rheumatic gout in her arms, loins, back, and ſtomach. She had been under the care of ſome eminent men of the Faculty, but did not experience the ſmalleſt relief till ſhe took Dr. BEER's *vital fluid*, accompanied with the *ſudorific proceſs*. By only ſix of theſe medical operations ſhe obtained a perfect cure. Mr. POTTS, having alſo himſelf proved their efficacy in four inſtances of ſevere indiſpoſition, concurred with his wife in requeſting Mr. VICKERY, perfumer in *Taviſtock Street*, to certify the truth of theſe facts to any of the faſhionable world who frequent his ſhop, and who may be intereſted in ſuch an inquiry.

Case 11.

Mr. and Mrs. LANY, at the lace warehouſe, No. 11, *Taviſtock Street*, have been equally ready to acknowledge the benefit which they received from the like treatment

treatment. Mr. LANY was cured of a *lumbago*, or rheumatic affection of the loins, by three operations; and though Mrs. LANY's complaint required a longer courſe, yet the ſtubborneſs of her rheumaticgout in the orifice of the ſtomach, and in her head, which had tortured her for near twenty years, was completely ſubdued, and her health reſtored by a little perſeverance in the ſalutary proceſs.

Case 12.

Meſſrs. THORP and GRAVES, linen-drapers, *Dyer's-buildings, Holborn*, witneſſed the recovery of a young lady who had been in a ſickly ſtate from her childhood; and though her conſumption was of a lingering nature, it did not ſeem leſs certain in its fatal tendency. It ſuffered her to reach her twentieth year; but it then began to quicken its pace in the moſt alarming manner. No expences were ſpared by her tender mother to procure her relief, but without effect. In very hot weather, the poor creature was ſo chilly as to require being ſhut up in a cloſe room, with a great fire. Indeed, her ſenſibility of pain was almoſt the only proof that any ſparks of life remained unextinguiſhed in her. Dr. BEER's *vital fluid* gave her ſtrength to undergo the *ſudorific proceſs*. Her pains abated: the benumbed parts of her frame gradually recovered their powers of motion, and the waſted parts their natural plumpneſs: the eighth operation completed the cure of all her infirmities.

Case 13.

Before the particulars of this caſe are entered upon, it

it may be proper to give an admonitory hint, that a great proportion of conſumptive complaints are owing to ſudden changes from heat to cold, and particularly to the indiſcretion of drinking or eating things of a cooling nature, when the body is heated by violent exerciſe. Such acts of raſhneſs are often puniſhed with inſtant death, or what is almoſt as bad, a painful conſumption, which bids defiance to the common reſources of what is called *regular* practice.

A very fine boy about fourteen years old, the ſon of Mr. GREGORY, cheeſemonger, near *Cripplegate Church*, had been guilty of the imprudence above deſcribed, by eating ſome cold fruit-pie, when he was very warm from exerciſe. The ſudden check thus given to perſpiration was ſoon followed by acute pain in the ſtomach and bowels. Three of the Faculty were immediately called in; but their mode of treatment appeared only to increaſe the progreſs of the diſorder. In leſs than a month, the poor patient was reduced almoſt to a ſhadow, except in his legs and feet which were ſwoln. His breathing was ſhort and difficult; his lungs evidently inflamed, and torn by a hard convulſive cough; and, in addition to his other ſufferings, a conſuming fever threatened him with ſpeedy diſſolution. From this ſtate he was recovered by twelve of Dr. BEER's operations. Some time after, the grateful youth, then preparing to go to ſea, wrote a plain account of his cure, which was ſigned by his father at No. 2, *Fore Street*.

SECTION II.

Cachectic caſes, or cures of diſeaſes ariſing from a depraved habit of body, as the Scurvy, Scrophula, Syphilis, &c.

Cases 14 *and* 15.

Mr. Inch, a ſurgeon, and his wife, were both afflicted with a ſcurvy of the moſt obſtinate and malignant kind. He has been three years and a half at ſea, as ſurgeon's mate of the *Herione* frigate on the Eaſt and Weſt India ſtations; to which circumſtance he aſcribed the malignity of his diſorder, as well as a violent hepatic complaint from which he alſo ſuffered. His left arm was not only waſted by a continual ſcorbutic diſcharge, but the elbow was contracted and incapable of motion. His appearance was really ghaſtly. Yet his wife's ſituation was ſtill more alarming; for, in addition to an inveterate ſcurvy, a moſt diſtreſſing cough and a violent fever did not ſeem to allow a moment's delay for the alternative of death. She therefore claimed the firſt attention, and was ſoon enabled to nurſe her huſband, who alſo experienced a very happy change in a ſhort time, having ſo far recovered the uſe of his arm, by only two operations, as to be able to make up medicines, and attend to the other duties of his buſineſs in Mr. Kent's ſhop, *China Row*, near *Bedford Square*. A complete cure of the complaints of this amiable couple, and of two of their young children who ſhared in their ſufferings, has ſince been effected under Dr. Beer's management; and profeſſional

pride

pride has not prevented Mr. Inch from publicly acknowledging the perſon to whom he and his family are indebted for the perfect reſtoration of their health.

*** The caſe of the other ſurgeon cured by Dr. Beer, and alluded to in the preface, will be found in the fourth Section, under the head of nervous diſeaſes.

Case 16 *and* 17.

Mr. Atkinson, a green-grocer at No. 2, *Moore Lane, Cripplegate*, had long ſuffered from a hereditary ſcurvy, which often varied its modes of attack, but ſeldom allowed her any reſpite from ſickneſs or pain. Her eyes were particularly affected with great foreneſs and dimneſs of ſight; but every partial attempt to relieve them or any other particular ſymptoms neceſſarily failed, while the ſource of the diſeaſe was neglected by her medical attendants. A ſon of her's, about thirteen years of age, had from his birth, been equally, if not more ſeverely afflicted; for although his mother was nearly blind, he was quite ſo. Dr. Beer ſucceeded, not only in reſtoring the ſight of both, but in correcting the ſcorbutic impurities and giving vigour to the relaxed ſyſtem, from which that defect had originated.

Case 18.

Miſs Elizabeth Madely is another very ſtriking inſtance of the inefficacy of ſymptomatic treatment, without due attention to the primary cauſe of the complaint. About the age of ſixteen ſhe was afflicted with pains in the ſtomach, which continuing to return as it were periodically every ſpring and autumn for three

three years after, were ſuppoſed to be rheumatic or gouty. Theſe having having alſo been preceded by ſomething like a paralytic affection of the left ſide of her head, which continued for a month, her medical attendants deemed her caſe nervous, and acted accordingly. But in the twenty firſt year of her age, the hitherto lurking enemy made his appearance, and a ſcorbutic humour broke out all over her back and face. The eruptions alſo appeared at intervals in her arms. Her ſufferings were farther aggravated by much pain in the head and face, frequent ſpaſms, ſhortneſs of breath, a troubleſome cough, a foul ſtomach, great depreſſion of ſpirits, and all the irregularities to which young females are liable. She had taken the bark in very conſiderable quantities under the direction of Sir WILLIAM FORDYCE, with a view, no doubt, to its anti-putreſcent and bracing properties. But the aſtringency of the bark ſerved only to fix the complaint, and in reality to prevent the expulſion of the impure and ſtagnant humours. This was placed beyond a doubt by the effects of Dr. BEER's *ſudorific proceſs*, which relieved the habit from its noxious load, and prepared every part of the frame for the reſtorative influence of his *vital fluid*. The young lady ſoon after married; and about two years ago Dr. BEER called at her houſe, No. 11, *South Street, Groſvenor Square*, where he found her the picture of health, which ſhe acknowledged to have perfectly enjoyed ſince her cure in the year 1787.

DR. BEER might here introduce ſtrong proofs of

the efficacy of his practice in the cure of ſcrophulous and venereal complaints. But no conſideration ſhall ever prompt him to injure the character of families, or to wound the feelings of individuals, by the expoſure of names in either of thoſe diſorders. The prejudices which are entertained againſt matrimonial connections in the former caſe, and the diſgrace uſually attached to the latter, ought to prevent any medical man from ever betraying the confidence repoſed in him by patients of either deſcription.

SECTION III.

Cures of local diſeaſes, or partial morbid affections.

Case 19.

Mr. Charles Townsend of *Homerton*, near *Hackney*, had for many years laboured under a complication of diſorders, but felt the greateſt alarm, and ſuffered the keeneſt torture from the gravel and ſtone. Yet, in the courſe of ſix and thirty days, Dr. Beer quieted his fears by the complete expulſion of what had cauſed his excruciating pangs. The diſſolved ſtone and gravel were brought away; and the patient's cough, with ſome gouty ſymptoms, diſappeared at the ſame time, and have not ſince returned. This remarkable caſe was made known to the Rev. Mr. Simpson, maſter of the *Hoxton Academy*.

Caſe

Case 20.

A little daughter, only two years old, of JOSEPH WEBB, carpenter, No. 142, *Rotherhithe*, had a bad inflammation in the left eye. After having been for three months under the treatment of a medical gentleman in the *Minories*, ſhe became blind in both eyes. She was then committed for two months to the care of two famous oculiſts. She had her head ſhaved every other day for five weeks; and had two oil-caſe caps every day. They gave her powders twice a day, and kept a white plaſter continually laid over her poor blind eyes and face, which raiſed a bliſter, and rendered her both in ſmell and appearance a loathſome and moſt wretched ſpectacle. She cried night and day with agony. Such was the ſtate in which Dr. BEER found her on his firſt experiment; but in three weeks he reſtored her ſight and health. The circumſtances of her perfect cure were witneſſed by the mark of her mother, MARY WEBB, and the ſignature of W. MITCHELL, May 28th 1792.

Case 21.

A ſon of Mrs. ANN PHILLIPS having been cured ſome years ago of very weak and inflamed eyes by Dr. BEER's mode of treaatment, the grateful mother mentioned the fact to SARAH WISEMAN, of *Baker's Court, Holborn*, who had met with a very alarming accident. Her right eye had been turned out of her head by a blow from the end of an iron bar. Some of the Faculty adviſed her to poultice it; but ſhe was diſſuaded from doing ſo by Dr. BEER, who knew that ſuch an application would entirely deſtroy the ſight of that eye, by drawing down

to

to it all the humours of the head, which ſhould be diſcharged by other means. Theſe means he employed and preſerved her ſight.

An enumeration of the cures of blindneſs, deafneſs, and various affections of the head, performed by the uſe of Dr. BEER's *cephaliss*, and his *vital fluid*, would extend this pamphlet to too great a length. But he cannot omit the following caſes of two of the brave men who ſo lately and ſo honourably fought our battles.

Case 22.

JOHN MORRIS, a ſeaman, who had a ſhare in the gallant actions in the Mediterranean, happened to catch a violent cold, which, from ill treatment, gradually deprived him of ſight, This bleſſing was reſtored to him by a few dreſſings in four days.

Case 23.

CHARLES WOOD, a young man, who had loſt not only his ſight but his hearing at the ſiege of *Alexandria*, recovered both in conſequence of undergoing one of Dr. BEER's operations, and uſing his powerful fluids at the ſame time.

SECTION IV.

Nervous caſes.

Case 24.

Miſs E. A---y, a Lady of the firſt connections in the North,

North, had, from the earlieſt period of her recollection, been the victim of nervous weakneſs and all its diſtreſſing conſequences. Her head, her lungs, her heart, her ſtomach, almoſt every part of her body felt pain, while the mind was ſunk in hopeleſs depreſſion. She had taken the advice of ſome of the moſt eſteemed phyſicians in her own country, in London, at Bath, and Briſtol Hotwells, to little purpoſe. A repetition of Dr. BEER's *Sudorific proceſs* eight times at proper intervals, with the uſe of the *Vital fluid*, effected her complete cure.

Case 25.

SARAH PLUMER, the wife of a currier in *White's yard, Saffron Hill*, in addition to her own ſufferings from an aſthma of ſixteen years' ſtanding, had the misfortune to ſee an infant child the heir of her infirmities, and farther afflicted with thoſe convulſive motions of the limbs and trunk, which go by the name of St. *Vitus's Dance*. Both ſhe and her child were reſtored by Dr. BEER to perfect health in leſs than one month. He has her atteſtation of the fact made before the Lord Mayor.

Case 26.

Miſs. WEBB, a young lady from *Baſingſtoke*, and niece to the Rev. Mr. WEBB of *Hare Court*, had, till the age of twenty, ſuffered as much from a variety of nervous attacks as human nature could be well ſuppoſed capable of enduring. She then put herſelf under Dr. BEER's care, and ſoon became as remarkable for her good health and ſpirits, as ſhe had before been for lowneſs and infirmity.

Case

Case 27.

One of the ſurgeons mentioned in the Preface, and afterwards in a note at the end of Caſes 14 and 15 in the ſecond Section, ſeemed to have derived from his parents not only a great irritability but a general relaxation of the nervous ſyſtem, accompanied with an aſthmatic cough, and a redundancy of bile. Having left nothing undone which was ſuggeſted by regular practice, and always finding himſelf worſe, he even deemed any new experiment dangerous. But the love of life, and the aſſurance given him of the happy progreſs of the former cure by the young lady herſelf, induced him to ſubmit to Dr. BEER's mode of treatment, which ſhortly proved effectual. The uninterrupted health which he has ſince enjoyed, in paſſing through various climates at ſea, is the beſt proof of the permanence of his cure.

The reaſon aſſigned at the cloſe of the laſt Section for ſuppreſſing many cures of deafneſs, &c. operates with equal force in the preſent detail of nervous caſes. They would ſwell this little work far beyond its deſtined limits. Dr. BEER will therefore add only one inſtance more of a remarkable nature, now under his immediate treatment.

Case 28.

Serjeant BOYLE, many years in the SURRY RANGERS, and laſt from *Nova Scotia*, where he ſuffered more from the rigour of the climate, than from any former hard

hard ſervice, or from the deep wounds which he gallantly ſuſtained in different actions with the enemy. He might be truly ſaid to have been froſt-bitten, and crippled with the palſy. His head was diſtracted with a conſtant whizzing noiſe---A ſharp humour kept always iſſuing from his ears---His eye-ſight was ſo dim as to excite a ſtrong apprehenſion of its total loſs---Nervours tremors ſhook his frame. Every part that had any feeling left, ſuffered acute pain. He had ſtill the uſe of the thumb, the fore and middle fingers of each hand, which ſerved with great effort to ſupport him on two crutches; but the other fingers, the hands, arms, and ſhoulders ſeemed ſeized with the immovable chilneſs of death. After his return to England, he went into York Hoſpital at Chelſea, where he remained for five months under the care of medical attendants, no leſs diſtinguiſhed for their ſkill than their humanity, but without experiencing any relief. In October laſt, he applied to Dr. BEER, and has ſince recovered his eye-ſight; his undiſturbed hearing; the perfect uſe of his fingers, hands, and arms; the general vigour of his habit; and the power of walking three miles an hour, with the aid of only one crutch, which he feels a comfortable aſſurance of being able very ſoon to throw away.

POSTSCRIPT.

The Medicines, by which Dr. BEER performed the foregoing and many other cures, are prepared ſolely

ſolely by himſelf, and ſold at his houſe, No. 2, *Ely place*, *Holborn*, under the ſanction of his Majeſty's Royal Letters Patent.

The Doctor's charge for conſultations or viſits, within a mile of his own reſidence, is only half a guinea each; but if between one or two miles, a guinea, with a proportional increaſe according to any ſtill greater diſtance.

All letters of inquiry muſt be poſt paid.

FINIS.

P. BOYLE, Printer, Vine-street, Piccadilly.